First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

http://jerzzy.co.uk/jersey-holiday-packages/walking-jersey/

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

March 15, 2015 10:00 am

Fourth Sunday in Lent

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"In the Bulb There Is A Flower"** **433 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Wayne Burling

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Wayne Burling

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Hymn** **"What Wondrous Love Is This"** **223 NCH**

Lenten Candles

Meditation - Week Four Carol Hall

Unison Prayer

Loving God, you sent your Son, Jesus, to earth to share our community and bring the teachings of life to our midst. Please help us to believe and trust. Show us the light of your revelation and help us to welcome its presence in not only our lives but the life of this congregation as we gather. Strengthen us to carry this light when we scatter to our weekly assignments. May we consciously represent the teachings of your Son in all that we do so that the world may come to know the story of love and grace that was shared. In the name of Jesus Christ your Son we say amen.

Solo **"Deep River"** Tiffanie Waldron

LISTENING FOR GOD

New Testament Reading John 3:14-21 Wayne Burling

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward* Carol Hall

New Testament Reading Ephesians 2:1-10 Carol Hall

Reflection **"Mercy & Grace"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"** **547 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Breath of Life,
In whom we live and move and have our being,
Your presence fills all of Creation.
May justice and mercy reign,
In our lives and in our world.
Today may our bellies be full,
Our hearts warm,
And our fellowship open.
May we reconcile with the people we've hurt,
Just as we reconcile with the people who've hurt us.
Lead us not into a time of trial,
But deliver us from evil.
For wherever grace and community abide,
There you are with us;
We are not alone.
Blessed be.

– by Chance Hunter (Used under Creative Commons license)
http://www.timesandseasons.net/2011/the-lords-prayer-an-alternate-version

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) — Wayne Burling

In joyous thanksgiving, we offer sacrifices of time and resources to announce God's healing grace to the world. We are grateful to participate in our work for humankind, to share the steadfast love of God with those around us and to offer life to those who are reaching out to avoid perishing. Watch over these gifts and send them to your preferred work, Lord. Amen.

Offertory — Steve McGhee

*Doxology — "Take My Gifts" — 562 NCH

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison) Carol Hall

For the life-sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted – for food, shelter, and the meaningful tasks we have to do we thank you. We thank you for your steadfast love that awakens us and raises us from the darkness. We are thankful for Your Word that guides and heals us. As we share a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of this congregation, may we show to others the immeasurable riches of your grace in Jesus Christ. Please make this church a beacon of hope for the world. Amen.

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Lead Us From Death to Life"** **581 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One Believe this: there is something within you right now-
So small that you might not know it is there;
But it has the power to grow into something the world needs.

Many **We trust that God is never done with us.**
With God, there is always a new beginning,
A new possibility to make something different of ourselves,
and to make a difference in the lives of others.

One Let God surprise you with strength you did not know you had,
With creative possibility you never dreamed of.

Many **We will open ourselves to God's quiet prompting.**
We will trust that God nurtures within us
The gifts, talents and character we need
To be God's agents of transformation and loving service.

- adapted from Season of Lent/Easter, Jeanyne Slettom

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our Volunteers	**Today: March 15th**	**Next Sunday: March 22nd**
Usher	Orin Brustad	Lyle Molter
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Wayne Burling	Orin Brustad
Worship Set-up	Wayne Burling	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Kelsie Molter
Friendship Time	Ann Marie N-T	Pot Luck after Meeting
Sunday School	Tad Wysor	Ann Marie N-T

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC:

Call to Meeting
The 2015 annual meeting will be held on March 22, 2015 immediately following worship. A recommendation from council to extend a call for 1/3 time to Carol Hall will be brought to the congregation for a vote.
The proposed budget will be brought to the congregation for a vote as well.
Other business can be presented at this time.

MICHIGAN ONA COALITION MEETING: The coalition will be meeting at Edgewood UCC in East Lansing Saturday March. 28, 2015 at 10:00 am till Noon. We will be discussing the Equality Workshop, Speaker Bureau, Getting ready for Pride Festivals, and any other topics that need discussing.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choir rehearsal this week will be Tuesday at 6:30 PM Come, join the fun and try it out. We have a great time. Don't need to read music or have trained voice.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition): First Congregational is a co-founding institution of this new local "organization of organizations, which is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. Consider visiting and representing our church at a meeting soon of one of our four current WeROC "Action Teams," which are developing action campaigns that can win on issues of education, prisoner re-entry, poverty and public health, and economic dignity of working families. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!! Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expired May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.